# THE PULSE

NEWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 12 APRIL, 1951

Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillip Perkins with Miss Marjorie Pond, Supervisor

## INTO A NEW LIFE

Mrs. Frances Burns, feature writer for THE BOSTON GLOBE, wrote an article which appeared on March thirteenth about Mrs. J. Philip Perkins, who underwent a rare operation on her heart thereby enabling her to resume a normal life. Excerpts from her article follow:

"A young Cape Cod mother who had become hopelessly bedridden after four heart attacks walked out of New England Deaconess Hospital and into a new life.

" 'Isn't it wonderful!', Mrs. J. Philip Perkins, 33, of Hyannis exclaimed happily as she took her husband's arm to be driven home. 'Now I can really live.'

"Less than two weeks ago the surgeon's knife invaded the innermost heart to slit open the scar-narrowed mitral valve between the two chambers on the left side.

"Now there'll be six to eight weeks of taking it easy, of learning to live with her new normally flowing heart's blood. Then Mrs. Perkins once more can take her part in the activities of her home.

"She never has had a chance really to enjoy three-year old Patty. She had her first nearly fatal heart attack when she was carrying her. Young Philip was four then. Before she came to Boston for her operation, just a few weeks ago, when she was in the Barnstable County Sanitarium, she would be so tired she hardly could wait for her husband's longed-for visit to end.

" 'We'll all enjoy the beach and water — yes, the horseshoe crabs with which the children fill the house — together this Summer,' she said today.

"It is only a few years since Boston and Philadelphia surgeons first successfully entered the heart itself, though the operation was first done as long ago as the early 20's in this city.

" 'Now that we know how to do it, it actually is a very simple procedure,' explained the young surgeon of the Overholt Thoracic Clinic, who operated on Mrs. Perkins at the Deaconess. 'The risk of the operation is far less than the risk of living with a nearly closed mitral valve.'

"Several hundred thousand persons in the country are said to be suffering from the condition, which is known among medical men as mitral stenosis. That means a narrowing of the mitral valve, so-called because it resembles a bishop's hat, or mitre. In nearly every case mitral stenosis has resulted from a bout with rheumatic fever which left the heart impaired. Sometimes the patient isn't even aware that he or she has had rheumatic fever — Mrs. Perkins wasn't. Ten years from now, the surgeon predicts, there will be much less mitral disease because rheumatic fever is 'being caught and treated in time today.'

"Normally, the mitral valve opens to make a passage one inch across to permit blood freshly oxygenated in the lungs to flow from the left auricle of the heart to the left ventricle (the two chambers on the left side of the heart) thence to be forced into the arteries and throughout the body. Scars that follow rheumatic fever sometimes narrow the opening. In Mrs. Perkins it was reduced to the size of a thin lead pencil.

"When this happens the blood can get through only in thin jets and is dammed back into the lung. The victim may be drowned in his own blood with 'congestive heart failure.' The condition produces shortness of breath, a chronic cough, discomfort, easy tiring. Sometimes blood is coughed up and the condition is mistaken for tuberculosis. Since it is a mechanical obstruction, no medical treatment cures it.

"While the operation requires two hours or more to do, the surgeon only is within the heart chamber itself for two or three minutes. During that time the blood flows around his finger. Silk sutures are used to sew the appendage and can be left in. Mrs. Perkins was ready to go home ten or eleven days after the operation.

" 'I'm only too happy to talk about my operation,' Mrs. Perkins said. 'I would like to pass the word along. I learned to do what had to be done for the children and let the rest go. But I'd have to sit down when I tried to dry mop the floor. It was such an effort. Now I can't believe that I shall be able to do things again. I have to pinch myself to be sure I'm not dreaming.' "

## INDIAN NURSE ARRIVES

Miss Mary Baakiam Jesudoss, Indian nurse from Vellore, South India, arrived in Boston the first of April to take further training in operating room procedures at the New England Deaconess Hospital preparatory to taking over supervision of the Surgery Department at the Christian Medical College Hospital in Vellore. During her six-months stay, Miss Jesudoss will also specialize in the nursing techniques of lung surgery — a field she has been working in for the past three years under the supervision of Dr. Reeve Betts, former Deaconess surgeon now in charge of the Thoracic Surgery Department of the Christian Medical College Hospital in Vellore.

Miss Mary Baakiam Jesudoss with Miss Ruth Pendleton

# THE PULSE

APRIL, 1951

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*Under Supervision of the*
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

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*Surgery* — Priscilla Ricker
*Volunteer Service* — Pamela Whitney
*X-Ray* — Lois Pivin

## CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The date for the official opening of the Cancer Research Institute has been set for June 5th. In the meantime, the preparations for this event involve moving offices and laboratories. The following groups are being installed now:

*Shop*

Raymond Barton — Edward Gauntlett
Howard Blinn — Elmer Pedersen

*Receiving*

Sadie Branchaud — Earle Williamson

*Pathology*

Lilla Anderson — Lorna Tilton

*Laboratory*

Dr. Margaret Holt — Elizabeth Stone

*Out Patient*

Claire Bryant — Evelyn Roe
Maude Maher — Ruth Sherman

*Bio-Physics*

Russell Cowing — Egilda DeAmicas
Charles Spalding

*Tumor Diagnosis Service*

Rhoda Abrahams — Margaret Jones
Lena Blodgett — Edith Lowry
Elizabeth DeFlorio — Rose Oster
Dr. Olive Gates — Marie Reichard
Louise Thompson

In order that the information and discoveries pertaining to cancer, which will be a product of the investigators in our Cancer Research Institute, may be carefully evaluated and used to benefit the public, the organization of the Institute has been carefully planned to maintain close contact with two already existing groups of the cancer field. These units are already in occupancy in the Institute.

The Tumor Diagnosis Service is administered by the Cancer Commission of Harvard University for the State Department of Public Health. This service has been operating for more than 30 years and is now directed by Dr. Olive Gates. Any physician in the State may send for diagnosis free of charge any specimen suspected of cancer. Such physicians in the State as do not have available the services of a nearby pathological laboratory use this service. Also, many established laboratories use the Tumor Diagnosis Service for consultation in the case of unusual or debatable cancers. Some 4000 specimens are diagnosed each year. From these over the past 30 years a group of more than 900 examples of unusual tumors has been amassed. This unique collection is invaluable for teaching and study, the latter being well borne out by the fact that more than 160 publications have already issued from this particular laboratory. Through her experience as director of this laboratory, Dr. Gates has won recognition in her ability to diagnose and prognose an unusually large number of different types of tumors and is considered an expert on tumors of the skin in particular. Also, through Dr. Gates, the ground-work for our Cell Diagnosis Laboratory was done and its present set-up established.

The Cancer Control group of the Harvard School of Public Health maintains offices in the Cancer Research Institute adjacent to the Cancer Detection and Tumor Clinic rooms under the direction of Dr. L. S. Snegireff. This cooperative relationship has been at work since our Cancer Detection Clinic started operation. The Cancer Control group will serve to evaluate new diagnostic and new therapeutic procedures so that those patients consulting our clinic can be assured of the best and latest in the treatment of cancer. Through this group the faculty and students of the Harvard School of Public Health are enabled to study and follow up cases in the clinic so that important advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer will subsequently be brought by members of this group to benefit future cancer patients.

Dr. Snegireff established the first group in any school of public health for specific training in cancer control at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has long been interested in this field and had had previous experience as guiding the cancer control program in the state of New Jersey.

## CANCER RESEARCH GRANT

On March 28th it was announced from Washington by the Public Health Service that a Federal grant to assist in cancer research had been granted to Dr. Samuel P. Hicks, Assistant Pathologist, in the amount of $13,781.00.

## REMINDER

Anyone desiring to make a Red Feather payment may do so on May 5 in the Cafeteria, Harris Hall, anytime between 9:30 A. M. and 11:30 A. M.

## RED CROSS DRIVE

Representatives from the various hospital departments met in Harris Hall the last week of February to plan the Red Cross Drive among the employees of the hospital. The members of the committee were:

Miss Lilla Anderson — *Pathology*
Miss Dorothy Blanchard — *Solution Room*
Mrs. Rose Boyajian — *Blood Bank*
Miss Mary Lou Day — *Student Nurses*
Mr. Walter Emery — *Laundry*
Miss Marjorie Le Beau — *Dietary*
Miss Susan Malm — *Chemistry*
Mr. Milton Nelson — *Administration*
Miss Ruth Pendleton — *Surgery*
Mrs. Helen Quinn — *Housekeeping*
Mr. John Quinn — *Pharmacy*
Miss Ruth Tipping — *Nursing*

Our goal was $500 and we are glad to report that a total of $551.40 was raised. Mrs. Berta Adams (Berta George), who was formerly with the Personnel and Public Relations Offices of the hospital, was in charge of the professional soliciting for the Red Cross Campaign and was of great assistance.

GERTRUDE S. JAMESON,
*Chairman,* Red Cross Drive

## BOWLING LEAGUE

**Results after the session on April 3, 1951**

| Team | Total Actual Pinfall | Total Including Handicap | Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. 3 Mr. Sabine | 35943 | 41313 | 74 |
| No. 6 Mr. Chamberlin | 37586 | 40495 | 68 |
| No. 2 Dr. Young | 32997 | 39662 | 61 |
| No. 7 Miss Churchill | 33786 | 39670 | 56 |
| No. 4 Mr. Emery | 32995 | 38535 | 54 |
| No. 8 Mr. Lowry | 34225 | 39586 | 53 |
| No. 5 Mr. Makrokanis | 32454 | 39088 | 49 |
| No. 1 Dr. Cook | 31543 | 39058 | 48 |
| No.10 Miss Parker | 32655 | 39182 | 48 |
| No. 9 Miss Whittemore | 31604 | 38708 | 40 |

**HIGH SINGLES TO DATE**

Miss White 113
Mr. Chamberlin 136

Beginning on April 24th there will be three nights of playoffs following the regular bowling season. During these playoffs the total pinfall will represent 2 points for each team rather than 1 point — making a possible total of 5 points and thereby eliminating the possibility of ties. The banquet is tentatively scheduled for May 15th — so keep that date open.

## PENCIL SKETCHING

Some sketches by Miss Ruth E. Pendleton, Head of the Department of Surgery, were featured in the March issue of ORS a magazine for operating room supervisors and nurses. Miss Pendleton started sketching about four years ago just as a hobby. Her work has been done under the supervision of the Adult Education Center, where she has attended classes for two or three years.

Pencil sketching can be an indoor or outdoor hobby. Sketches may be made directly from nature or from photographs or paintings. Some artists take pictures of an interesting subject so that an unfinished sketch may be completed later if it cannot be completed at the scene. Miss Pendleton prefers to work from snapshots of her own since her time is limited for doing outdoor work regularly. Some use their snapshots as a source for future work indoors.

Subject matter is unlimited — landscapes in all seasons, architecture in all forms, portraits, still lifes, and abstractions. Any subject may be interpreted by the artist or copied meticulously. Because of the medium used the time element is not necessarily a consideration. Fifteen minutes or five hours may be expended — as the materials do not spoil or dry out. Therefore, such a hobby allows even a few minutes of relaxation each day.

The supplies used in pencil sketching are not expensive. There are special hard surface papers and a variety of hard, medium, and soft pencils. An easel may be made of a piece of beaver board about two feet square. A camp stool is advisable for the out door sketcher so that the best angle of the subject may be obtained.

Any hobby affords a real outlet from daily routine and provides untold enjoyment. Miss Pendleton used the Snow Scene in Massachusetts for her Christmas cards. She has just completed a sketch in the Boston Garden of the bridge and pond. The sketch of the Rock-bound Coast of Maine is one of her favorites. It is hoped that sometime we may have a Hobby Show when some of these sketches may be hung as well as samples of the hobbies of all in the hospital may be exhibited.

ROCK-BOUND COAST OF MAINE

Snow Scene in Massachusetts

## SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Dr. Samuel P. Hicks, Assistant Pathologist, recently told the Committee on Public Health that the search for drugs and chemicals to overcome the effects of atomic exposure has resulted in some progress. He appeared in support of a bill filed by Representative William A. Glynn of Roxbury calling for a $50,000 appropriation for the Department of Public Health to broaden the present research at the Pondville State Hospital concerning the effects of radiation and its possible uses in the cure of cancer.

Dr. Lewis M. Hurxthal, a member of our staff, and head of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Lahey Clinic, spoke in March at the monthly meeting of the Springfield Academy of Medicine. His subject was ACTH AND CORTISONE THERAPY. He spoke about the up to date treatment in the use of these hormones and the various diseases amenable to them.

Dr. Richard H. Overholt, Thoracic Surgeon at the New England Deaconess Hospital and Clinical Professor of Surgery at Tufts Medical School, spoke at the annual meeting of the Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis on March 29th. His subject was *Mass Screening for Tuberculosis Does Double Duty.*

## HEART FILMS SHOWN

On Tuesday, April 3rd, instructors were here from 46 schools of nursing to see the films dealing with heart disease. The program was arranged by the Massachusetts Heart Association in cooperation with the Eastern Massachusetts League of Nursing Education, of which Miss Mary E. Gilmore, Boston College School of Nursing, president.

The program was the first of its kind and resulted from individual requests to the Heart Association to see new heart films as an aid for teaching student nurses as well as patients. An all-day program was planned so that representatives of all schools of nursing east of Worcester could attend and discuss the value of the films for teaching purposes.

The films shown were: The Heart Beat Mechanism in Health and Disease, Guard Your Heart, Jimmy Beats Rheumatic Fever, and Heart of the Home.

## SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Miss Sigrid Hellmer is on leave of absence from the Admitting Office and at this time is flying to Honolulu. From there she will go with the U. S. Navy on a missionary survey to the Micronesian Islands as a special representative of the Park Street Church, Boston, under the American Board of Foreign Missions. We will report the details of her trip upon her return.

## GLAD TO SEE YOU!

**Blood Bank**
William H. Scott, M.D.

**Chemistry**
Bessie H. King
Phyllis J. Wood

**Dietary**
Joan E. Codding
Dennis W. Collins
Patricia A. Kelty
Elizabeth McDade
Andrew Quattralli
Joseph H. Reels
Dorothy Wing

**Housekeeping**
Doris Chiappini
William K. Hay

**Maintenance**
Thomas D. Doherty
Sterling F. Savoy

**Nursing**
Effie Baird
Ann W. Bartlett
Gladys L. Conway
Rose Lee Finch
Vivian P. Guay
Jacqueline R. Helpern
Eleanor M. Johnson
H. Estelle LeGrow
Catherine Manter
Dorothy E. Nicholas
Betty L. Olsen
John E. Pendergast
Rose V. Petti
Florence S. Platt
Paula M. Pumphrey
Catherine J. Rasmussen
Anna E. Senteio
Patsy M. Shope
Martha G. Swanson
Barbara J. White
Dorothy M. Wood

**Record Room**
Adelaide F. Evans
Gilberte M. Roussin

## FOUND

Large bunch of keys.

Pigskin glove, natural color with brown whip stitching, for right hand.

## FOR RENT

**Apartment —** Corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Clarendon Street — 5 room furnished on 2nd floor — ideal for 3 or 4 people — available until December only — $125 a month.

**Apartment —** In private home on Fairway Road, Chestnut Hill, suitable for 1 or 2 people — would prefer doctor or doctor and wife. Bedroom, study, bath, kitchen and other privileges. Owner at home only in evenings and away most of summer. $90 a month includes telephone, gas, electricity.

**Apartment —** On Brookline Avenue near Beth Israel Hospital — redecorated furnished living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen and bath — $90 a month.

**Apartments —** On Washington Street, Brighton, 1 or 2 bedrooms — rents $84.70, $99.00, and $103.50.

**Apartment —** Bay State Road near Kenmore Square — riverview apartment — living room, bedroom, bath. Ideal for doctor. Maid service, utilities and refrigerator, but no cooking facilities. $70 a month rent.

## LOST

Black Shaeffer pen — Ruth Churchill, Nursing

Wallet — Corinne Cooper, Nursing.

Pigskin change purse — initials H. G. — Helen Gates, Administration.

Overshoes — lost in Cafeteria — Dr. Andrew Weir, Lahey Clinic.

## BABY SITTERS

Rosanna N. Chute, Research Technician, Extension 360; home phone LO 6-8450.

Carmen Davila (Mrs. Manuel D.), Laundry Operator, Extension 221.

Janice E. Kelly (Mrs. James J.), Laundry Operator, Extension 221.

Mrs. Esther L. Prince, Hostess, Extension 210; home phone LO 6-8582.

*For Further Information, Inquire At The Personnel Office*

## DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

### Engagements

Miss Barbara B. Alden, '49 Sr., to Pfc. Robert H. Hamilton of St. Francis, Maine. Pfc. Hamilton is now stationed at Camp Pickett, Virginia and is a veteran of World War II. No date has been set for the wedding.

Miss Phyllis May Walker, a student nurse of the '51 Jr. class to Mr. William Donald MacKay of Holden, Massachusetts. Mr. MacKay, a Navy veteran of World War II, is an alumnus of the University of Massachusetts and is now employed by the Hillcrest Dairy, Inc. of Worcester. No date has been set for the wedding and Miss Walker will complete her course in September.

### Weddings

Miss Irene Carol Anderson, former Dietitian in Baker, to Mr. Edwin Maxwell Meyer on March 31, 1951 at Rochester, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer will make their home in Cranston, New Jersey.

Miss Barbara Ruth Broadbent, '48 Sr., and Assistant Nursing Arts Instructor, to Mr. Edward Corey of East Braintree on April 7, 1951 at Christ Church, Quincy. They will live in East Weymouth.

### Births

A daughter, Bonnie H., to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Goldsmith of 36 Winston Road, Dorchester, on March 30, 1951. Mr. Goldsmith is a Cook in Central Service

## "GET-ACQUAINTED" TEA

On Wednesday afternoon, April 4th, a "Get-Acquainted" Tea was held for the Simmons College Instructors who teach our students during the semester they attend classes at Simmons. The 1953 Junior Class, which completed their semester in February, and the 1954 Senior Class, currently enrolled, were the hostesses. It is the fourth such event and has proven mutually beneficial, as it provides an opportunity for the Deaconess Instructors to know those who are working with our students at Simmons.

## ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

Recently Mildred M. Frolio Bryden (Mrs. Norman Bryden) was a patient in the hospital under the care of Dr. F. Gorham Brigham. Mrs. Olive Palacz, Head Nurse on Palmer II, with other nurses and doctors took an interest in Mrs. Bryden, who was graduated from our training school in 1922. Boxes of food were packed and sent to her and because others than the Alumnae Association also made donations, the following letter is of interest:

613 Plymouth Street
Abington, Massachusetts
March 13, 1951

Dear Mrs. Palacz:

My sincere and truly heartfelt thanks to my wonderful friends of the Alumnae Association and also to the many friends at the Hospital. I couldn't believe my eyes when box after box of all sorts of "goodies" were brought into my home. I felt as though I had died and suddenly found myself in heaven where only such goodness could happen to one person. However, I am much alive and shall continue to be so with all this good food to help me.

In my humble way I thank you all again and again and hope that in some way I may repay you for such love, thoughtfulness and kindness.

Most sincerely
MILDRED M. BRYDEN